



# The BIRD of the SEASON



by Frank Finn

**T**HANKSGIVING without the turkey is almost unthinkable. For this great bird, which has become inseparably associated with the season of Thanksgiving, is peculiarly an American bird and as much an American institution as Thanksgiving day itself. Within the reach of poor and rich alike, the great national bird is the principal feature of the feasting which is an important part of the festivities of the day.

The fact is, of course, that turkeys don't come from Turkey, and were unknown before the discovery of America, in the north of which continent the wild turkey still roams in unrestrained freedom, though not, alas, in undiminished numbers.

When the enterprising Spaniards began to explore the resources of the new world that Columbus had opened out for them, they found that the natives had tamed a big bird, which they regarded as a sort of peacock, and it was not long after the discovery of America that the new bird made his appearance in European poultry yards.

Great must have been the disgust of the original occupants of these when the invader appeared. For one thing he was much bigger than any of them, and could look down on them in the most literal sense. He was also fully aware of the importance of his expensive personality and lost no time in impressing it on all and sundry. The peacock, who had reigned supreme both as an artist in posing and as a table delicacy—the Romans used to talk of having "ham and peacock"—as we would speak of ham and turkey—found himself confronted with a rival who made up for inferiority of plumage by displaying with much greater energy and frequency what he had got, and by a



menagerie, when he also met his end from a far different adversary. This was a gamecock of some Indian breed, the most blackguardly looking fowl I have ever set eyes upon, with beetling eyebrows, a bulldog type of beak and pillar-like legs, his athletic proportions set off by very tight-fitting plumage. However, he was only a fowl, thought the two turkeys, and with Oriental indifference to the rules of fair play they both set out to tackle him together. The gamecock acquitted himself in a manner worthy of his breed, and howled them over with one blow apiece. Perhaps his natural magnanimity—for chivalry is seldom anything but a gentleman—made him lenient with the hen; at any rate, she was only "knocked silly." But he gave her husband a fair knock-out blow, gripping his wattle with the bulldog bill, he brought the columnar shanks down on the bulky adversary's neck with such force that, when I saw the defeated bully he was sitting in a state of paralytic collapse, and not long after ingloriously expired.

Such is the part the turkey plays as a tame bird—a pretentious and pushing person who occasionally collapses ignominiously. Nor are his aspect and career as a wild bird different, for he is one of the few creatures which have altered very little in domestication, and though he may be regarded as the premier bird of America, and gains a certain amount of dignity and consideration thereby, there is a comic element in his performance and misfortunes which robs him of the dignity of the feathered nobles of the older world. The blackguardly tendencies which, seen in domestication, have caused some people to suggest that he is called a turkey because he behaves like the proverbial unspeakable Turk, are in full swing in his wild ancestor, who is altogether born in sin. His wife, or wives—for he is an inveterate polygamist even in his primitive condition—have to keep their infant points out of his way, or he will crack their little heads for them; and when he conquers and slays a rival gobbler, he tramples him when he is down and done for. His courtship is every bit as absurd in the wild as it is in the farmyard, and ancient turkey dowagers emulate his absurdities in strutting to win his regard, though the pullets maintain a proper modesty of demeanor. Moreover, the wily hunter brings about his downfall in ways which make him look undignified—no other bird is lured to his end in such queerly discreditable ways.

One is to call him up within shot by imitating the voice of her he loves for the time being. On a small pipe, often made of a turkey's own dramatic bone, the sportsman imitates what he ungallantly calls the "yelp" of the hen turkey, and the infuriated gobbler, lured by the soft invitation, is often decoyed within range. To his credit be it said, however, he displays a fine ear, and if he detects anything suspiciously insincere in the accents of the concealed charmer, it will be a clever impersonator who gets him to answer another matrimonial advertisement for that season at all events.

Another plan is the turkey trap, which is a pen made of logs and entered by a trench, across which there is a bridge just inside the entrance. A train of corn leads the turkeys into this, and when they are inside and have eaten up all the corn, it never occurs to them to stoop under the bridge beneath which they passed in, but they continue to wander round and round till the trapper comes and gathers them in—a proceeding which does not argue any great amount of intelligence on their part.

One can even get a turkey by hunting him with a dog, circumstances being favorable. The said circumstances are the fact of the turkey's being a little way off from their woodland retreat, feeding out on the prairie, and one's dog being a greyhound; moreover, one's horse should know how to go. The turkey, even when wild, is not a long-distance flier, but he has not sense enough to remember this when he finds his foes between him and the wood, and tries to fly straight away from the pursuing bound instead of turning about over his head and coming back to cover. After about a mile he has had enough of flying and takes to his legs, only to find that his four-legged opponent is close behind, and he must perforce take to the air again. But this time his flight is not for so long a distance, and he is ignominiously "run into," a victim of misplaced confidence in himself as an aeroplane.

Let us be thankful that we have got the turkey as he is, with all his comic extravagances, and that in one respect, at all events, he can challenge comparison with many worthier people: his last appearance is always creditable, and no one can deny that he cuts up well!

## Cause for Thankfulness.

Thanksgiving day is the one day in the year when the nation turns to heaven in thanks for its preservation. The life of the nation is the principal consideration; not only its life, but its health, and its preservation in that condition in which it was established by the fathers of the country. Men can thank God for their own accumulations or supplicate him to lighten their burdens, but that is not the purpose of a national thanksgiving. The nation itself, the political structure which was framed and handed down—it is the preservation of this for which the people are to be thankful.

## NOT A PENNY TO PAY FOR FULLEST MEDICAL EXAMINATION

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## Easy Marks.

"Talk about yore easy marks," said Uncle Silas Gehaw, who had been passing a week in the city, "us rubes ain't in it with them air teoww chaps."

"Did yew sell 'em enny gold bricks, Silas?" queried old Daddy Squash-neck.

"Naw, I didn't," answered Uncle Silas, "but I seed a feller peddin' artificial ice—bed th' sign right on his wagon—an blamed ef th' chumps didn't buy it fer th' real thing, by grass!"

## What's in a Name?

"See here, waiter," said Mr. Grouch, scowling deeply over his plate, "I ordered turtle soup. There not even a morsel of turtle flavor in this."

"Of course not, sir," returned the waiter. "What do you expect? Shakespeare said there was nothing in a name. If you ordered college pudding would you expect a college in it? In Manchester pudding would you look for a ship canal or a cotton exchange? Any tea, sir?"—Tit-Bits.

## How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the Catarrh Cure.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions, and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him.

WALDOE, KIRBY & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 15 cents per bottle. Sold by all druggists.

Take Halls Family Plus for constipation.

## ENCOURAGEMENT.



First Boy—Mother says if I go swimming she'll lick me when I get back.

Second Boy (encouragingly)—But perhaps you won't get back; there's been lots of fellows drowned in that swimming hole.

## Somewhat Indignant.

The two extra specialists had pounded and sounded him, and felt of his pulse and tapped his frame till he could only lie in a cold perspiration of fear.

"Undoubtedly it's a case of appendicitis," said specialist No. 1, gravely.

"Undoubtedly!" assented specialist No. 2.

"But would he be able to stand an operation?" pondered No. 1.

"Ah, would he?" echoed No. 2.

They dug him in the ribs again, and he squealed.

"Ah," remarked No. 1, "I think we ought to let him get a bit stronger before we cut into him."

"Confound your palaver!" gasped the patient, starting up. "What do you take me for—a cheese?"

## MORE THAN EVER

Increased Capacity for Mental Labor Since Leaving Off Coffee.

Many former coffee drinkers who have mental work to perform, day after day, have found a better capacity and greater endurance by using Postum instead of ordinary coffee. An Illinois woman writes:

"I had drank coffee for about twenty years, and finally had what the doctor called 'coffee heart.' I was nervous and extremely despondent; had little mental or physical strength left, had kidney trouble and constipation."

"The first noticeable benefit derived from the change from coffee to Postum was the natural action of the kidneys and bowels. In two weeks my heart action was greatly improved and my nerves steady."

"Then I became less despondent, and the desire to be active again showed proof of renewed physical and mental strength."

"I am steadily gaining in physical strength and brain power. I formerly did mental work and had to give it up on account of coffee, but since using Postum I am doing hard mental labor with less fatigue than ever before."

Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville, in pkgs. 'There's a Reason.'"

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

**An Exciting Town.**  
Los Angeles is a truly exciting town to live in. To say nothing of its heavenly climate and its bombs, there is always something stimulating in the occult line going on. Just the other day a widow of the angelic city began to long for a sight of one of her schoolmates whom she had not seen for 45 years. The longing brought its fulfillment. A spirit told her to look for him in Brooklyn. She obeyed, met him on the street a few hours after she arrived, and promptly married him. It is worth while to live in a city where things like this happen, even at the risk of being blown up now and then.

**A Touch of Family Life.**  
When the country youth proposed to the city girl, he received the conventional assurance that she would be his sister. It happened that this youth had sisters at home and knew exactly his privileges. So he kissed her. At this juncture she availed herself of the sisterly right to call out to father that brother was teasing her. Father responded in good, muscular earnest. Then the new brother-and-sister relation was dissolved by mutual consent.—Judge.

The satisfying quality in Lewis' Single Bunkers found in no other cigar.

Many a fellow marries because he is too bashful to get out of it.

## 44 Bu. to the Acre

is a heavy yield, but this is what John Kennedy of Edmonton, Alberta, Western Canada, got from 44 bushels of spring wheat in 1916. Reports from all the best wheat-growing countries show other crops of similar results—such as 40 bushels from 100 acres of wheat in 1916, 35 bushels from 100 acres of wheat in 1915, 30 bushels from 100 acres of wheat in 1914, 25 bushels from 100 acres of wheat in 1913, 20 bushels from 100 acres of wheat in 1912, 15 bushels from 100 acres of wheat in 1911, 10 bushels from 100 acres of wheat in 1910, 5 bushels from 100 acres of wheat in 1909, 0 bushels from 100 acres of wheat in 1908, 1907, 1906, 1905, 1904, 1903, 1902, 1901, 1900, 1899, 1898, 1897, 1896, 1895, 1894, 1893, 1892, 1891, 1890, 1889, 1888, 1887, 1886, 1885, 1884, 1883, 1882, 1881, 1880, 1879, 1878, 1877, 1876, 1875, 1874, 1873, 1872, 1871, 1870, 1869, 1868, 1867, 1866, 1865, 1864, 1863, 1862, 1861, 1860, 1859, 1858, 1857, 1856, 1855, 1854, 1853, 1852, 1851, 1850, 1849, 1848, 1847, 1846, 1845, 1844, 1843, 1842, 1841, 1840, 1839, 1838, 1837, 1836, 1835, 1834, 1833, 1832, 1831, 1830, 1829, 1828, 1827, 1826, 1825, 1824, 1823, 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1324, 1323, 1322, 1321, 1320, 1319, 1318, 1317, 1316, 1315, 1314, 1313, 1312, 1311, 1310, 1309, 1308, 1307, 1306, 1305, 1304, 1303, 1302, 1301, 1300, 1299, 1298, 1297, 1296, 1295, 1294, 1293, 1292, 1291, 1290, 1289, 1288, 1287, 1286, 1285, 1284, 1283, 1282, 1281, 1280, 1279, 1278, 1277, 1276, 1275, 1274, 1273, 1272, 1271, 1270, 1269, 1268, 1267, 1266, 1265, 1264, 1263, 1262, 1261, 1260, 1259, 1258, 1257, 1256, 1255, 1254, 1253, 1252, 1251, 1250, 1249, 1248, 1247, 1246, 1245, 1244, 1243, 1242, 1241, 1240, 1239, 1238, 1237, 1236, 1235, 1234, 1233, 1232, 1231, 1230, 1229, 1228, 1227, 1226, 1225, 1224, 1223, 1222, 1221, 1220, 1219, 1218, 1217, 1216, 1215, 1214, 1213, 1212, 1211, 1210, 1209, 1208, 1207, 1206, 1205, 1204, 1203, 1202, 1201, 1200, 1199, 1198, 1197, 1196, 1195, 1194, 1193, 1192, 1191, 1190, 1189, 1188, 1187, 1186, 1185, 1184, 1183, 1182, 1181, 1180, 1179, 1178, 1177, 1176, 1175, 1174, 1173, 1172, 1171, 1170, 1169, 1168, 1167, 1166, 1165, 1164, 1163, 1162, 1161, 1160, 1159, 1158, 1157, 1156, 1155, 1154, 1153, 1152, 1151, 1150, 1149, 1148, 1147, 1146, 1145, 1144, 1143, 1142, 1141, 1140, 1139, 1138, 1137, 1136, 1135, 1134, 1133, 1132, 1131, 1130, 1129, 1128, 1127, 1126, 1125, 1124, 1123, 1122, 1121, 1120, 1119, 1118, 1117, 1116, 1115, 1114, 1113, 1112, 1111, 1110, 1109, 1108, 1107, 1106, 1105, 1104, 1103, 1102, 1101, 1100, 1099, 1098, 1097, 1096, 1095, 1094, 1093, 1092, 1091, 1090, 1089, 1088, 1087, 1086, 1085, 1084, 1083, 1082, 1081, 1080, 1079, 1078, 1077, 1076, 1075, 1074, 1073, 1072, 1071, 1070, 1069, 1068, 1067, 1066, 1065, 1064, 1063, 1062, 1061, 1060, 1059, 1058, 1057, 1056, 1055, 1054, 1053, 1052, 1051, 1050, 1049, 1048, 1047, 1046, 1045, 1044, 1043, 1042, 1041, 1040, 1039, 1038, 1037, 1036, 1035, 1034, 1033, 1032, 1031, 1030, 1029, 1028, 1027, 1026, 1025, 1024, 1023, 1022, 1021, 1020, 1019, 1018, 1017, 1016, 1015, 1014, 1013, 1012, 1011, 1010, 1009, 1008, 1007, 1006, 1005, 1004, 1003, 1002, 1001, 1000, 999, 998, 997, 996, 995, 994, 993, 992, 991, 990, 989, 988, 987, 986, 985, 984, 983, 982, 981, 980, 979, 978, 977, 976, 975, 974, 973, 972, 971, 970, 969, 968, 967, 966, 965, 964, 963, 962, 961, 960, 959, 958, 957, 956, 955, 954, 953, 952, 951, 950, 949, 948, 947, 946, 945, 944, 943, 942, 941, 940, 939, 938, 937, 936, 935, 934, 933, 932, 931, 930, 929, 928, 927, 926, 925, 924, 923, 922, 921, 920, 919, 918, 917, 916, 915, 914, 913, 912, 911, 910, 909, 908, 907, 906, 905, 904, 903, 902, 901, 900, 899, 898, 897, 896, 895, 894, 893, 892, 891, 890, 889, 888, 887, 886, 885, 884, 883, 882, 881, 880, 879, 878, 877, 876, 875, 874, 873, 872, 871, 870, 869, 868, 867, 866, 865, 864, 863, 862, 861, 860, 859, 858, 857, 856, 855, 854, 853, 852, 851, 850, 849, 848, 847, 846, 845, 844, 843, 842, 841, 840, 839, 838, 837, 836, 835, 834, 833, 832, 831, 830, 829, 828, 827, 826, 825, 824, 823, 822, 821, 820, 819, 818, 817, 816, 815, 814, 813, 812, 811, 810, 809, 808, 807, 806, 805, 804, 803, 802, 801, 800, 799, 798, 797, 796, 795, 794, 793, 792, 791, 790, 789, 788, 787, 786, 785, 784, 783, 782, 781, 780, 779, 778, 777, 776, 775, 774, 773, 772, 771, 770, 769, 768, 767, 766, 765, 764, 763, 762, 761, 760, 759, 758, 757, 756, 755, 754, 753, 752, 751, 750, 749, 748, 747, 746, 745, 744, 743, 742, 741, 740, 739, 738, 737, 736, 735, 734, 733, 732, 731, 730, 729, 728, 727, 726, 725, 724, 723, 722, 721, 720, 719, 718, 717, 716, 715, 714, 713, 712, 711, 710, 709, 708, 707, 706, 705, 704, 703, 702, 701, 700, 699, 698, 697, 696, 695, 694, 693, 692, 691, 690, 689, 688, 687, 686, 685, 684, 683, 682, 681, 680,